



# Elections Budget Bill

## HF 1830

**DFLers know participating in our Democratic process is not a privilege, it's a right.** The Elections budget will help ensure every eligible voter can exercise their civic duty to participate in our elections without barriers meant to suppress the vote.



## Top Impacts:

### Minnesota Secretary of State

In partnership with local election officials, the Elections Division of the Secretary of State office works to ensure every eligible vote is properly cast, counted, and reported. The budget bill fulfills funding needs for automatic voter registration and early voting to increase ease and accessibility for Minnesotans, so every eligible voter can exercise their civic duty to participate in elections.

### Early Voting Expansion

Previously, Minnesotans have had the right to take paid time off from work to vote, but only on Election Day. Our budget bill expands employees' ability to take time off from work to include the 46-day in-person early voting period, allowing Minnesota's workers flexibility. The change also will help reduce Election Day strain on businesses, which in years past have had to operate short-staffed as employees are absent to vote on the same day. The bill also includes provisions to establish additional polling places on Tribal land if requested by a Tribe, which may be open for part or all of early voting, helping to bridge an access gap for many of our Native neighbors.

### Campaign Finance Board

The bill funds the Campaign Finance Board (CFB), which works to ensure confidence in our elections by enforcing campaign finance laws. Other campaign finance provisions include requiring lobbyist registration for all political subdivisions. This closes a loophole that allowed lobbyists outside the metro area to lobby elected officials without proper disclosure. This bill will increase transparency for voters in Greater Minnesota by requiring registration, lifting the veil on lobbying efforts that have gone under-reported in the past.

## Other provisions in the Elections budget include:

- The creation and maintenance of a permanent absentee list so individuals who vote by mail will automatically receive a ballot instead of having to request one for each election.
- Strengthening Election Worker protections by creating a new class of criminal offense for intimidation of election officials or interference in the performance of their duties.
- Adding Minnesota to a growing list of States who have pledged to award electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote in a Presidential election. The agreement would not go into effect until enough states have joined to reach 270 electoral votes collectively.